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answered; I do not believe he can be answered. We are his debtors, the foolish and long-suffering world is his debtor, for the thoroughness and power with which he has taught this great lesson.

Will England Adopt Conscription?

The following article from the pen of Samuel James Capper appeared in last month's number of the *Anglo-Russia* (21 Pater Noster Square, London):

"With the exception of the British Empire, every state in Europe recognizes the duty of all adult male citizens, at some period of their lives, to contribute to the defense of the fatherland by personal service. This system, commonly known as the conscription, was introduced during the first French Revolution, and, as stated, has now become universal in Europe except in our own country.

"Few will be disposed to dispute that every community has need of some force to protect life and property and to repress violence and disorder. But the mere knowledge that such a force exists is practically sufficient to effect its object; it is hardly ever called into active exercise. As a concrete example, let us take London, greater London with its six millions of inhabitants, many of whom are in dire want, and under sore temptation to lay violent hands upon the almost fabulous wealth, constantly in their view, which is the property of a very small minority, yet how very small is the police force upon whom ultimately the protection of the metropolis depends!

"If the maintenance of order and the protection of life and property were the only object in view, so far from universal military service being necessary, it would at once be recognized as the monstrous and criminal absurdity it really is,—monstrous because altogether disproportioned to the object intended, and criminal, because it converts industrious producers into unprofitable consumers, and reduces the joys of life and the possibility of happiness to the greater number of mankind. Because a small, a very small, police force is necessary to maintain order is no reason for arming every adult man with a bludgeon, and causing him to march about in a blue uniform; yet this is practically what Europe is doing, only substituting the rifle for the bludgeon. And why? Because of the want of wisdom by which the world is governed—because of the practice of war for the settlement of international disputes.

"At the time of the Peace Congress at Buda Pesth, in 1896, there was almost an epidemic of dueling in the duel-cursed country of Hungary, and I was asked to address a meeting upon the subject. It was a crowded and an enthusiastic meeting, for every one in Buda Pesth realizes that dueling is a very real and an ever present curse. I ventured to say what few in England would contest, that dueling is criminal and absurd. If, however, it be compared with the practice of war, it will be found to be the less ignoble institution of the two. Because I feel myself offended or injured, I insist upon my antagonist exposing himself to be killed by me, and I expose my life to be taken by him—this is the duel. Because statesmen cannot agree over a green table, they either cajole boys by voluntary enlistment or compel

them by the conscription to murder one another—this is war. Surely war is more base than the duel.

"Without, however, dealing with what would be ideally desirable, we must take Christendom as it is, one vast armed camp, and ask what England should do in the actual circumstances of the case.

"Seven years ago I was guest in the historic Château of Froeschweiller, in Alsace, a château which a quarter of a century before was the key of the position in the bloody battle of Wörth. On the occasion of my visit there was a great gathering of the notables of the country-side, and among others was General von Blume, the commander of the Sixth German Army Corps, having its headquarters at Strasburg. With him I had frequent conversations upon the subject of the conscription for England, conversations which he always concluded in one way. 'Mr. Capper, you have got to come to it. The only question is whether you are to adopt it before the catastrophe or after the catastrophe.'

"As the result of a long life's experience, and having seen the conscription and how it works in France, Germany and Italy, I believe it would be a great misfortune and a well-nigh intolerable burden in England, once so free; but to my mind, although for the moment the trend of public opinion at the war office and in the country seems to be against compulsory service, the conscription in some form is certain, unless we change the character of our foreign policy and alter our manner of treating foreign nations.

"If, regardless of the immense tracts of the earth's surface subject to our rule, we are led by an insensate earth-hunger to try and grab more and more, and if we entrust our national affairs to statesmen who ostentatiously shake their fists in the face of the world and insolently threaten them with correction if they do not mend their manners, we shall soon have the conscription in addition to all our other burdens, and, I believe, not even the conscription nor the swollen budget for our national armaments will be able to save us from eventual disaster and ruin. But if, for the policy of unreasoning and constant expansion, we substitute one of consolidation and improvement, if we reduce expenditure, strive to make our subjects all over the world happy, and to unloose the heavy burdens which, as in India, are crushing into poverty and starvation hundreds of millions of our fellow subjects, and if we habitually treat the neighboring nations in a spirit of conciliation and moderation, it will be possible to do without the conscription, and England may yet for many generations fulfil a great mission, in promoting the well being and the virtue of the world.

"I cannot now go into the relative merits of a great professional army such as we have at present and such a system as that of Switzerland. In Switzerland there is practically an armed nation powerless for offense, but omnipotent for the defense of the country. With our vast empire one-half of our army must always be on foreign service, and it is universally admitted that it is impossible to enforce the conscription for service abroad. As long, then, as our empire continues what it is, no form of conscription could take the place of our present professional army. If universal compulsory military service were introduced, it would probably take the form of rendering it obligatory upon every young

man either to serve in the militia or to join the volunteers, and this would almost of necessity be in addition to our present army. It is claimed, by the advocates of this new departure, that it would render England absolutely free from all fear of invasion.

"I will not now dwell upon the vastly increased cost even upon our present enormous expenditure, or attempt to answer the question whether it would be possible for the country to bear the burden without absolute ruin, but I am anxious to point out to your readers one consideration, with which I will close this short article.

"If our ministers are ready to conduct a war of extermination in South Africa, and join in a policy of adventure in China, and are constantly being incited by irresponsible advisers in the jingo press to reprove France, beard Germany, and meet and thwart Russia in every part of the world,—and that at a time when England itself is denuded of troops,—to what lengths might they not be tempted to carry matters if, behind the professional army we now find so costly, a million or more conscripts could be called out in support of any policy upon which they might decide? Under these circumstances it is feared that there would be no hope of substituting for expansion of empire, an indefinite increase of expenditure, and a haughty and provocative foreign policy,—all backed by the conscription,—the ancient watchwords of the Liberal party, in which, after all, the prosperity and real greatness of our country are bound up: *Peace, Retrenchment and Reform.*"

Book Table.

THE LEOPARD'S SPOTS. By THOMAS DIXON, JR.
New York: Doubleday, Page & Co.

This is a story of the race problem in the South from the close of the Civil War to the present. In no book that we have seen have the nature and difficulties of the problem been stated so well, except possibly in some aspects of it in one or two of Mr. Tourgée's works twenty-five years ago. But Mr. Dixon, a Southern man who lived many years in the North, understands and feels the essential elements of the problem from both sides as no man not having resided long in both sections can ever do.

"The Leopard's Spots" is a powerful story, into which the author has put much of the inner experiences of thought and feeling, some of them evidently most puzzling and not altogether agreeable, through which he has passed since the great struggle forty years ago. The story is full of life and action, and shows constructive ability of no commonplace order. The pathetic condition of the returned heart-broken, penniless soldiers of the Confederate army; the helpless position of the old aristocratic families, especially of women left widows, whose fortunes had been swept away; the chaotic situation, running often into lawlessness and lust, of the ignorant negro population who had been turned loose as full-fledged voters; the "carpet-bag" government with its amazing unwisdom and frequent low corruption; the temporary high-handed and financially ruinous negro domination; the violation of young girls by villainous negroes; the hot Southern blood; the organization, work and final dastardly perversion of Ku-Klux-ism; the well-

meant, but in considerable measure unintelligent early Northern attempts at negro education; the Southern prejudice and hatred of the North; the mutual alienation of the white and black races South,—all these Mr. Dixon has woven into his story with great naturalness, and with the evident purpose to be perfectly fair toward all the actors. There are touches here and there, however, which reveal the Southern man who cannot wholly understand the North.

No writer has described a mob doing its wild work of lynching—cold, hard, merciless, fierce even to dead silence, proceeding to do its ghastly work—with more forcibleness than Mr. Dixon. His painting of one of these scenes makes you feel that you are more dead than alive. But the story is also charged with the power and beauty of living human goodness and tenderness, and the masterful force of a great and noble love.

The latter part of the story, which deals with the more recent conditions in the new South, is not on the whole so satisfactory as the earlier portions. It is more fragmentary, goes by too large leaps, and suggests little that is enlightening towards a just and humane solution of the problem. Perhaps the author could think of little to suggest. If so, he is not alone in his perplexity.

We commend this book to those who wish to gain a clear insight into the character of the ugly problem which a century of slavery and a gigantic war left the nation, the toughness of which we have only just begun to realize and the solution of which we have scarcely begun.

Report of the American Friends' Peace Conference.

The Report of the American Friends' Peace Conference held in Philadelphia in December, 1901, has just been published. It is an octavo pamphlet of 234 pages, and contains all the papers read and the substance of all the discussions. Copies of the report may be had at the office of the American Peace Society at ten cents each. Postage and wrapping ten cents additional.

Members of the Permanent International Court of Arbitration.

AUSTRIA-HUNGARY.—His Excellency Count Frédéric Schönborn, Doctor of Laws, President of the Imperial Court of Justice, former Minister of Justice, Member of the House of Lords of the Austrian Parliament, etc.; His Excellency M. D. De Szilagyi, former Minister of Justice, Member of the Chamber of Deputies of the Hungarian Parliament, etc.; Count Albert Apponyi, Member of the Chamber of Magnates and of the Chamber of Deputies of the Hungarian Parliament, etc. M. Henri Lammasch, Doctor of Laws, Member of the House of Lords of the Austrian Parliament, etc.

BELGIUM.—His Excellency M. Beernaert, Minister, Member of the Chamber of Representatives, etc.; His Excellency Baron Lambermont, Minister, Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary, Secretary-General of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs; Chevalier Descamps, Senator; M. Gustave Rolin-Jacquemyns, former Minister of the Interior.